

Here Comes the King

April 5, 2009

John 12:12-19

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

Palm Sunday is about expectations of Jesus. Yes, there is the pancake breakfast, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the festivities. Similarly, it was during a festival that Jesus came into town.

But he came to town amid certain expectations.

People had expectations about Jesus.

Crowd

Pharisees

Disciples

What are your expectations of Jesus this Palm Sunday?

I.

Crowd Expectation

John 12:18 They heard that he had performed this sign

Crowds like spectacle:

-freeway slow down for an accident

-bear sighting in Great Smokies

-seen Lazarus raised from dead (Ch 11)

*READ 9-11, 17-18

What did the crowd expect?

Jewish expectations at the time: Palm narrative

Elements:

1. Palms = associated with Judas Maccabeus in 2nd century

-last time any ruler came to town and threw out the pagans

2. Quotes from scripture: Zechariah and Psalm 118

-Zechariah with Haggai: 6th cen BC (after 587 exile)

Expect: exile to end, ruler return, temple built, Yahweh

*READ Zech 1:1-4 RETURN OF KING

*READ Zech 14:4-9 KING ON MT OLIVES

*READ Zech 9:9-10 KING RULES NATION

SUM = Exile over, King and Yahweh return

-Psalm 118:

-Call to Yahweh for help

-Yahweh gives victory

*READ 118:19-27

*Victory parade down mtn, through gates into temple

Here's what the crowd expected:

1. Exile to be over
2. King to return
3. Temple to be cleansed
4. Nations thrown out
5. Signs to accompany it (Lazarus)
6. Kingdom to come with general resurrection (Lazarus)

Crowd Expectation: FIX PROBLEMS WITH SPECTACLE!

Is this what you expect from Jesus? SPECTACLE

II.

Pharisee Expectation

John 12:19 The Pharisees then said to one another

Pharisee = Presbyterian = Control Freak

-originally a lay movement during 2nd cen BC (Judas)

-word *prs* = set apart

-set up rules to make life easier, but really harder

READ 12:19, 42-43, 10 (priests)

Jesus threatened Pharisees because of control (losing world)

Pharisee Expectation: LOSE CONTROL

Are you fearful that Jesus might threaten your control?

What if I actually accepted Jesus and followed?

III.

Disciple Expectation

John 12:16 His disciples did not understand these things

Same expectations as crowd, but more

Characteristics of Disciples: READ 16

- Part of crowd (other gospels have throne request)
- Been with Jesus
- Understanding is changing (from crowd)
- Later saw in Scripture what God was up to

Disciple Expectation: HOPEFUL BUT CONFUSED

Is this where you are?

IV.

Jesus Expectation

John 12:14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it

- Crowd = SPECTACLE
- Pharisee = LOSE CONTROL
- Disciple = HOPEFUL BUT CONFUSED

What did *Jesus expect* when he came to town?

Crowd/disciple expectation: end of Israel's exile
But more: end of human exile

READ 27-33

- Came into town as king = yes
- Came to cleanse temple = yes
- Came to judge ruler (not nations) = yes

More than Israel is in exile; humanity and creation are in exile
Came to defeat sin and death, to release and redeem the creation

THIS IS THE DRAMA THIS WEEK: Jesus coming to defeat evil

- SPECTACLE = YES
- CONTROL = YES, LOSE IT
- CONFUSION = YES, BUT CLARITY

Maundy Thursday: Night when Jesus was betrayed

Good Friday:

Easter:

Jesus is crucified

Surprising news of resurrection